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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD: SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II (EAST-SOUTH)

REFERENCE: GENEVA 13594

1. SUMMARY: UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB) SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II (SCII) ON EAST-SOUTH IS MEETING IN CONTACT GROUP IN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN G-77 AND GROUP D DRAFT RESOLUTIONS. GIVEN GROUP D INTRANSIGENCE AGREEMENT IS NOT LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SESSIONAL COMMITTEE II (SCII) A CONTACT GROUP WAS CONVENED ON 8 SEPT. TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE G-77 AND GROUP D EARLIER IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE DAY. THE G-77 DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLS FOR AN ADDITIONAL MEETING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON EAST-SOUTH TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS ON A MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF PAYMENTS BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE G-77 RESOLUTION ALSO CALLS FOR IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS TO THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND REQUESTS THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO UNDERTAKE FOLLOWING

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PROJECTS: A) EVALUATE MEASURES ADOPTED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCTAD RESOLUTION 95(IV) BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES; B) ANALYZE MEANS FOR FURTHER INTENSIFYING TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND SOUTH; C) EVALUATE THE ROLE OF BILATERAL TRADE, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, AS WELL AS COMPENSATORY AGREEMENTS, BETWEEN THE EAST AND SOUTH AND SUGGEST MEANS FOR INCREASING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS; D) PROPOSE WAYS FOR EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF THE SPECIAL FUND ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE COMECON COUNTRIES' INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LDCS; AND E) DEVOTE ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IS REQUESTED TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THESE MATTERS TO UNCTAD V.

3. THE GROUP D DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDS THAT ALL GROUPS TAKE POSITIVE MEASURES AIMED AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL FLOWS OF TRADE AMONG COUNTRIES HAVING DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS. IT ALSO ASKS THE SECRETARIAT TO STUDY ALL THESE TRADE FLOWS (INCLUDING EAST-WEST TRADE) IN LIGHT OF UNCTAD CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS 15(II), 53(III) AND 95(IV). RATHER THAN CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF EXPERTS ON EAST-SOUTH TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND MULTILATERAL PAYMENTS, THE GROUP D RESOLUTION CALLS SIMPLY FOR THE SECRETARIAT TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE CMEA COUNTRIES AND THE LDCS ON THESE TOPICS. .
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4. GROUP B CAN SUPPORT THE G-77 DRAFT RESOLUTION WITH MINOR CHANGES. WHILE G-77 HAS NOT YET AGREED TO AMENDMENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR FORMAL SUPPORT, THIS IS LIKELY IF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ARE FORWARDED TO UNCTAD V.

5. CONTACT GROUP WAS EXTENDED TO 11 SEPT BUT THUS FAR HAS NOT RESULTED IN A NARROWING OF POSITIONS BETWEEN G-77 AND GROUP D. GROUP D IS CLEARLY NOT INTERESTED IN COMING TO ANY TYPE OF AGREEMENT AND HAS REMAINED INFLEXIBLE. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVES THEY HAVE PROPOSED ARE A SIMPLE REPORT ON THE DISCUSSIONS OR A REPORT WITH BOTH UNAGREED DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ATTACHED. G-77 CONTINUES TO ARGUE THE CASE FOR ADOPTING THEIR RESOLUTION BUT WITHOUT AN IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF SOCIALIST ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHICH HINDERS THEIR EFFORTS TO MAKE REALISTIC, EFFECTIVE REQUESTS OF GROUP D MEMBERS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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